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CIA denies part in Paisley death probe

PIKESVILLE, Md. (AP) — Former CIA official John Paisley apparently committed suicide, but the chance that he was murdered also remains under intense investigation, a state police spokesman said Wednesday.

Cpl. Jerry Eismann, the spokesman, alo denied reports that the CIA was actively involved in the investigation of the death of Paisley, whose bloated, decomposed body was found floating in Chesapeake Bay Sunday.

State police said Paisley had been shot once in the head at close range with a .38-caliber handgun. His body had 40 pounds of scuba diver's weights wrapped around the waist.

The Wilmington News Journal reported Wednesday that the CIA was taking part in the probe. It also said the agency feared Paisley may have been murdered by the Soviet secret police because of his connection with the agency's satellite surveillance system.

Herbert E. Hetu, a CIA spokesman termed the report "ridiculous."

"Why would they murder him because he knew about the satellite surveillance program," Hetu said.